
From: Pane, Mark
To: Rotola, Joe; Mosher, Eric; Jimenez, Christopher; Wilson, Eric
CC: Hoppe, Shawna K; Tim Benton; Richard Craig; patrick.ahern@westonsolutions.com; Gregor, Margaret; Freeman, Martin; Zachos, George
Sent: 3/20/2015 5:39:29 PM
Subject: Potential Methyl Bromide Release in St. John's

All,

I am passing this very limited information on to you, because it may be active over the weekend. Eric Wilson and I just received a call from Geoff Garrison regarding a potential exposure of 3 individuals to methyl bromide which resulted in their hospitalization. The exposure likely occurred at the resident's condominium in St. Johns. The residents are now hospitalized in St. Thomas where the doctor examining them has diagnosed them with symptoms consistent with methyl bromide exposure. Methyl bromide is pesticide, see google search below. The call was relayed to Geoff directly from the RA, who requested an immediate EPA presence to assist local authorities in addressing this situation. I contacted Patrick Ahern, RST on call person, to coordinate their resources. Geoff is trying to collect additional information from a family friend of the hospitalized residents. Geoff believes that we should conduct an entry into the residence, possibly in level B or C PPE to locate the source of this material. Also, we need to canvass the surrounding area to determine if others have been impacted.

I am copying all of the players I believe need to be notified, but if omitted anyone, please pass this information along. I believe Margaret Gregor is the after hours responder for this weekend. I apologize for the lack of detail, but that is all I have right now. Please feel free to call me on my cell or at home with any questions.

Thank you,

Mark P. Pane

Chief, Removal Support Section

Removal Action Branch

(O) 732 906-6872

(C) 908 420-4482

(H) 732 329 2969

Some info on Methyl Bromide:

Humans

- Human experience and use history indicate that inhalation exposure to methyl bromide is highly toxic (1). Methyl bromide is corrosive to both the skin and eyes (1).
- The symptoms associated with methyl bromide poisoning may include headaches, nausea, vomiting, visual disturbances, malaise, confusion, loss of coordination, slurred speech, and skin, eye, and respiratory irritation (2, 8, 18, 19). In severe poisonings, paralysis, convulsions, coma, and death may occur (2, 8, 18, 19). Signs of methyl bromide poisoning are often delayed and may lag from only a few minutes to 48 hours post exposure (2, 8, 19).
- Researchers have suggested that low-level, chronic exposure to methyl bromide affects the nervous system, but the evidence supporting chronic toxicity is inconclusive (2, 19, 20, 21).